

We claim:

1. A system for managing commerce comprising:
  - an interface for sending and receiving data to and from the Internet;
  - 5 means for storing data representative of a seller, a distributor and a purchaser;
  - means for storing data representative of a product available from the seller;
  - means for storing data representative of a contract between the seller and the purchaser;
  - means for storing data representative of a purchase of the product by the
  - 10 purchaser from the seller;
  - means for storing data representative of a shipment of the product from the distributor to the purchaser;
  - means for determining a rebate due to the purchaser from the seller;
  - means for transferring a payment received from the purchaser to the seller;
  - 15 and
  - means for determining a chargeback payment due from the manufacturer to the distributor,
  - wherein the seller, the distributor and the purchaser access the system using the Internet.

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2. The system of claim 1 wherein data representative of a contract comprises at least two party names, a product, a price, a date, and a term.

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3. The system of claim 2 wherein data representative of a contract further comprises a rebate due from the seller to the purchaser.

4. The system of claim 1 further comprising:  
10 means for determining a trade fund balance for each product purchased by the purchaser from the seller; and  
means for updating the trade fund balance when a rebate is processed.

5. The system of claim 1 wherein the trade fund balance further  
15 comprises an actual trade fund balance and a budgeted trade fund balance.

6. A system for managing commerce comprising:  
an interface for sending and receiving data to and from the Internet;  
means for storing data representative of a seller, a distributor, a group  
20 purchasing organization and an end user;  
means for storing data representative of a product available from the seller;  
means for storing data representative of a contract between the seller and the group purchasing organization;

means for storing data representative of a purchase of the product by the group purchasing organization from the seller;

means for storing data representative of a shipment of the product from the distributor to the end user;

5 means for determining a rebate due to the group purchasing organization from the seller;

means for transferring a payment received from the group purchasing organization to the seller;

10 wherein the seller, the distributor and the group purchasing organization access the system using the Internet.

7. The system of claim 6 wherein data representative of a contract comprises at least two party names, a product, a price, a date, and a term.

15 8. The system of claim 7 wherein data representative of a contract further comprises a rebate due from the seller to the group purchasing organization.

9. The system of claim 6 further comprising:

20 means for determining a trade fund balance for each product purchased by the group purchasing organization from the seller; and

means for updating the trade fund balance when a rebate is processed.

10. The system of claim 6 wherein the trade fund balance further comprises an actual trade fund balance and a budgeted trade fund balance.

11. A method for managing commerce from an electronic commerce site  
5 accessed over a network, comprising the steps of:  
storing data representative of a seller, a distributor and a purchaser;  
storing data representative of a product available from the seller;  
storing data representative of a contract between the seller and the purchaser;  
storing data representative of a purchase of the product by the purchaser from  
10 the seller;  
storing data representative of a shipment of the product from the distributor  
to the purchaser;  
determining a rebate due to the purchaser from the seller;  
transferring a payment received from the purchaser to the seller; and  
15 determining a chargeback payment due from the manufacturer to the  
distributor.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein data representative of a contract comprises at least two party names, a product, a price, a date, and a term.

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13. The method of claim 12 wherein data representative of a contract further comprises a rebate due from the seller to the purchaser.

14. The method of claim 11 further comprising:

determining a trade fund balance for each product purchased by the purchaser from the seller; and

updating the trade fund balance when a rebate is processed.

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15. The method of claim 11 wherein the trade fund balance further

comprises an actual trade fund balance and a budgeted trade fund balance.

16. A method for managing commerce from an electronic commerce site

10 accessed over a network comprising:

storing data representative of a seller, a distributor, a group purchasing organization and an end user;

storing data representative of a product available from the seller;

15 storing data representative of a contract between the seller and the group purchasing organization;

storing data representative of a purchase of the product by the group purchasing organization from the seller;

storing data representative of a shipment of the product from the distributor to the end user;

20 determining a rebate due to the group purchasing organization from the seller; and

transferring a payment received from the group purchasing organization to the seller.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein data representative of a contract comprises at least two party names, a product, a price, a date, and a term.

5 18. The method of claim 17 wherein data representative of a contract further comprises a rebate due from the seller to the group purchasing organization.

19. The system of claim 16 further comprising:  
determining a trade fund balance for each product purchased by the group  
10 purchasing organization from the seller; and  
updating the trade fund balance when a rebate is processed.

20. The method of claim 16 wherein the trade fund balance further comprises an actual trade fund balance and a budgeted trade fund balance.

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